

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
16 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

A tenuous cease-fire was arranged last night after the most serious outbreak of fighting in at least two years. Hostilities erupted after General Grivas, the Greek who commands the Cypriot armed forces, insisted on sending police patrols through a tense Turkish-Cypriot area that had been free of such patrols since last July. Turkish-Cypriots resisted, but were overwhelmed by Grivas' National Guard before the cease-fire came into effect.

Athens' role in this flare-up is still not entirely clear. It had apparently approved Grivas' plan to resume the patrols, but--after urgent US and British representations--did order the cease-fire and Grivas' withdrawal from positions gained in the day's fighting. At last word, Grivas was apparently withdrawing.

The outbreak came at a time of heightened tension between Athens and Ankara, caused in part by the recent Turkish air force intrusions over Greek islands in the Aegean. The Turks reacted quickly to yesterday's events, warning that they might have to intervene. The US military attaché in Ankara noted obvious Turkish military preparations and saw bombs being loaded on Turkish aircraft.

2. France

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3. Communist China

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4. Mongolia

The presence of Soviet combat troops in Mongolia was openly acknowledged for the first time last week when Soviet tanks and surface-to-air missiles took part in the 50th anniversary parade in Ulan Bator. The Chinese are sure to look on this as a further affront by the "revisionist puppets" running Mongolia.

5. United Kingdom

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6. Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew [redacted]
[redacted] thinks his recent trip to the US was "very successful," even though he did not get the security guarantee he had hoped for from the US. He is still talking of the long-term threat he fears Indonesia poses for Singapore.

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7. Philippines

From all accounts, Tuesday's elections were among the bloodiest and perhaps the dirtiest in recent Filipino history. At last word, the death toll was 62 and still rising.

Returns are coming in slowly, but it is already obvious that the two-party system is still a going concern. Marcos' party is doing well in many places, but one of the President's bitterest enemies is ahead in one of the eight senatorial races and another has won the contest for mayor of Manila.

8. Vietnam

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9. Panama

Arnulfo Arias is talking confidently of winning the election next May against whatever candidates President Robles and other politicians put up. Given the continuing angry dissension in the Robles camp, Arias has good reason for his optimism. Moreover, he remains secure as head of the country's only mass-based political party.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Communists Fail to Comment on Goldberg State-
ments: Neither Hanoi nor the Liberation Front has
yet reported or commented on Ambassador Goldberg's
statements of two weeks ago that the US would not
block the Front's participation in talks at the
United Nations or at a Geneva-type conference. Nor-
mally, both are quick to rule out any role for the
United Nations in Vietnam talks. The lack of com-
ment suggests that they consider this a modification
in the US position.

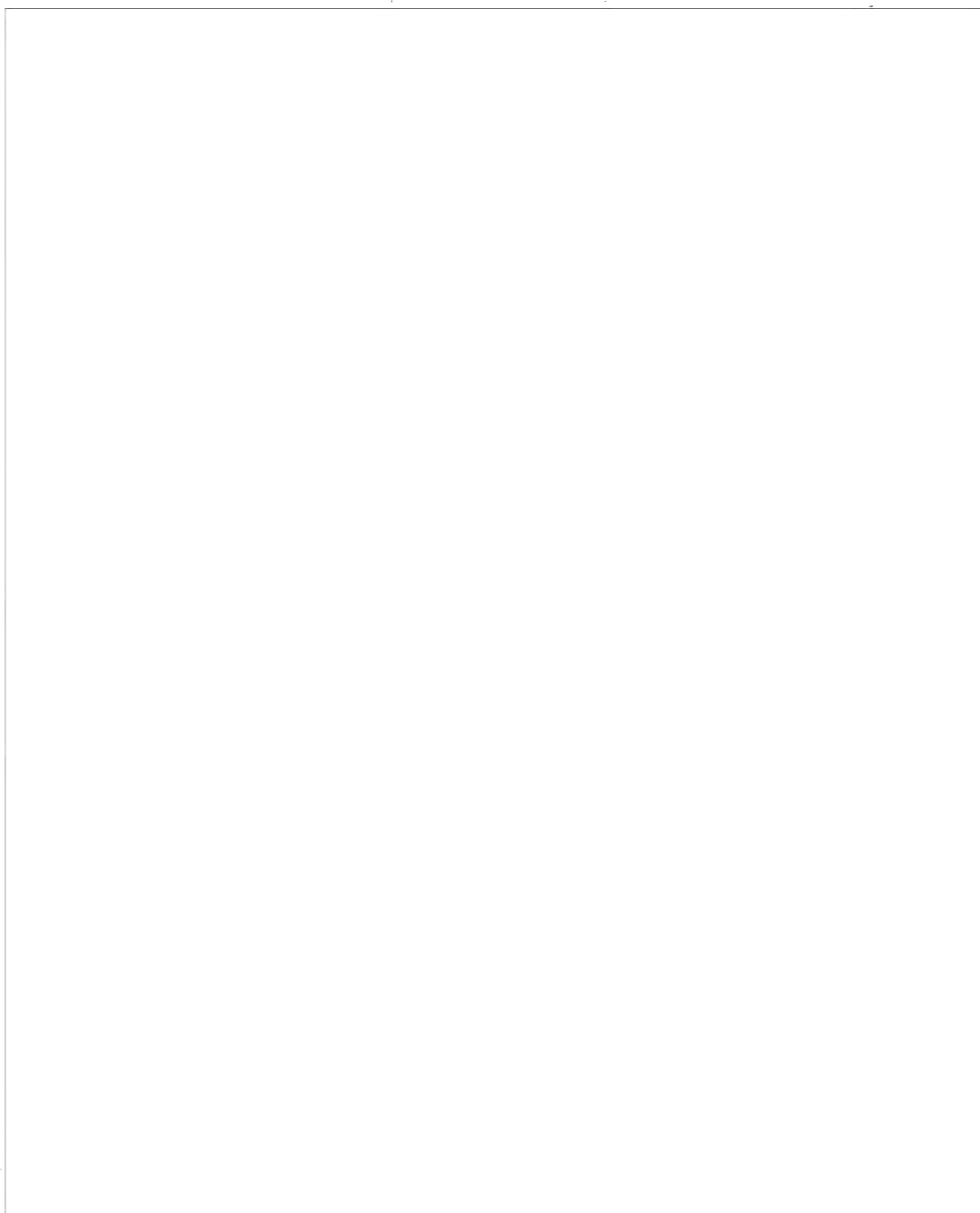
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR



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Hanoi on US Deserters: North Vietnam has described as "resolute and valiant" the desertions of the four US Navy sailors in Japan. A 15 November Hanoi International Service broadcast in English states that the sailors left their ship in protest against the "US aggressive war" in Vietnam. The broadcast reports a commentary in the Hanoi Daily, Nhan Dan, claiming that the sailors have "clearly seen the truth" of the Vietnam war and the "extremely reactionary and dangerous" policy of the US. The Hanoi paper also says that the desertions were a "heavy blow" to President Johnson and showed that the antiwar movement of the American people was growing stronger.

A separate Hanoi International Service broadcast in English yesterday reports on desertions by US troops in Western Europe. The broadcast claims that during the past year more than 1,000 US soldiers have deserted in Western Europe--70 percent of them to avoid being transferred to South Vietnam "to serve as cannon fodder." According to Hanoi, "disastrous US defeats" in Vietnam have steadily increased the US troops' hatred of the war. The broadcast also claims that the people of the West European countries have aided the deserters and that US authorities are "deeply concerned" and have tried to "cover up the facts."

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Hanoi on Court-Martial of Army Private: A Hanoi International Service broadcast in English yesterday reported that "American youths" held a meeting in New York's Union Square on 13 November to defend [redacted] a US army private who refused to go to Vietnam. The broadcast said that the participants--members of the Dubois clubs--condemned the

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US Government's persecution of Americans who refused
to take part in the "dirty war."

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